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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,626	03/24/2004	Akihiro Nakamura	CFG03436US	6083
7590 09/28/2005			EXAMINER	
Canon U.S.A. Inc. Intellectual Property Department 15975 Alton Parkway Irvine, CA 92618-3731			YAN, REN LUO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,626

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, AKIHIRO

Examiner

Ren L. Yan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. *
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-18-2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al(5,966,555). With respect to claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 15-17, the patent to Nakajima et al teaches the method and image formation apparatus as claimed including sheet supplying devices 81a and 81b positioned relative to the image formation apparatus, a sheet transporting unit transporting said sheets fed from said sheet supplying device; an image formation unit 71-73 forming images on said sheets transported by said sheet transporting unit; and a receiving unit (CPUs 301-304) receiving information on said sheet feeding interval from said sheet supplying device; wherein said sheet transporting unit, responsive to said information on said sheet feeding interval, transports said sheets at said sheet feeding interval, wherein the information on the sheet feeding interval includes information on number of sheets remaining in the sheet supplying device detected by sensors. See Figs. 1-42, column 3, lines 14-50 and column 23, line 55 through column 25, line 59 in Nakajima et al for details. With respect to claims 3, 9, 14 and 18, Nakajima et al teach wherein in a case where the number of sheets remaining in the sheet supplying device is greater than a predetermined number of sheets, the receiving unit receives information on a first sheet feeding interval, and the sheet transporting unit transports the sheets at said first sheet feeding interval; and wherein in a case where the

number of sheets remaining in said sheet supplying device is less than or equal to said predetermined number of sheets, the receiving unit receives information on a second sheet feeding interval longer than said first sheet feeding interval, and the transporting unit transports said sheets at said second sheet feeding interval. See Figs. 41 and 42 in Nakajima et al. Regarding claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 20 and 21, image formation apparatus of Nakajima et al further comprises a determining unit determining the position of the sheet supplying device relative to said image formation apparatus; and a transmission unit transmitting information on the sheet feeding interval to the sheet supplying device in the event that said determining unit has determined that the position of said sheet feeding device is a predetermined connection position, wherein the determining unit determines a detachable mounting position of the sheet supplying device to said image formation apparatus, and wherein the transmission unit transmits the information on the sheet feeding interval to said sheet supplying device in the event that said determining unit determined that the position of said sheet feeding device is the predetermined connection position. The examiner notes that sheet supply cassettes 81a and 81b are detachably mounted to the image formation apparatus to facilitate replenishment of the sheet supply by the operator. The position of these sheet supply cassettes is inherently monitored and the amount of sheets available in each cassette is checked such that the control of the image formation apparatus could carry out the sheet feeding and image forming operations with the desired sheet feeding intervals.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

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having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al in view of Onuki et al(6,463,240). The patent to Nakajima et al teaches all that is claimed except for the image formation apparatus being a multi-color image forming device. Onuki et al teach in a digital color copying apparatus having an image formation unit comprises a plurality of image-carrying members 13C, 13M and 13Y, each image-carrying member carrying one color of a plurality of color toner images; an intermediate transfer member 25 facilitating primary image transfer by contacting said plurality of image-carrying members for transferring said plurality of color toner images onto said intermediate transfer member 25; and a transfer unit facilitating secondary image transfer by transferring said plurality of color toner images from said intermediate transfer member 25 onto a sheet. See Fig. 2 and column 6, line 16 through column 7, line 9 in Onuki et al for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the image formation apparatus of Nakajima et al with the plurality of image-carrying members and an intermediate transfer member appropriately disposed as taught by Onuki et al in order to produce color copies from the original document. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L. Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 571-272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
Sept. 13, 2005